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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, September 19, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended September 14 totaled an estimated 17.2 billion ton-miles, 9.2 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 37 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 627.3 billion ton-miles, down 5.3 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended September 14 totaled 391,844, down 8.0 percent from last year, but 18.4 percent higher than the preceding holiday week. Compared with last year, loadings were down 10.0 percent in the East, 6.4 percent in the South and 7.5 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 11 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Coal loadings were down by 11,802 cars (8.8 percent) and grain traffic showed a decline of 11,690 cars (7.1 percent). Twenty of the 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding holiday week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the holiday week ended September 7 totaled 79,119 trailers and/or containers, 3.2 percent above the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 36 weeks of the year was 3,067,758 trailers and/or containers, down 2.2 percent from 1984.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 9/14/85:

	Loadings in Week ended September 14, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	19,859	D	11,690	37.1	I	4,141	26.3
Other farm products	3,232	I	19	0.6	I	1,031	46.8
Metallic ores	12,625	D	4,960	28.2	I	2,914	30.0
Coal	122,121	D	11,802	8.8	I	16,787	15.9
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	13,695	I	53	0.4	I	2,100	18.1
Nonmetallic minerals	12,055	D	1,656	12.1	I	2,015	20.1
Grain mill products	10,788	I	312	3.0	I	2,064	23.7
Food and kindred products	11,358	I	118	1.0	I	1,839	19.3
Primary forest products	11,059	D	3,155	22.2	I	2,072	23.1
Lumber and wood products except furniture	6,984	D	59	0.8	I	1,547	28.5
Pulp, paper and allied products	13,479	D	1,648	10.9	I	835	6.6
Chemicals and allied products	25,393	I	228	0.9	I	3,941	18.4
Petroleum products	5,093	I	25	0.5	I	852	20.1
Stone, clay and glass products	11,204	D	587	5.0	I	1,600	16.7
Coke	4,496	D	599	11.8	D	46	1.0
Metals and products	8,609	I	555	6.9	I	1,241	16.8
Motor vehicles and equipment	21,585	I	573	2.7	I	3,708	20.7
Waste and scrap materials	9,386	D	391	4.0	I	2,315	32.7
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,928	D	854	11.0	I	1,095	18.8
All other carloads	61,714	I	1,412	2.3	I	8,749	16.5
LCL traffic	181	I	17	10.4	I	67	58.8
Total Cars Loaded	391,844	D	34,089	8.0	I	60,867	18.4
Corresponding week of 1984	425,933						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (37 weeks)	13,794,779	14,662,399	D 5.9
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
36 Weeks ended September 7	610.1	643.2	D 5.2
Week ended September 14	17.2	19.0	D 9.2
37 weeks cumulative	627.3	662.2	D 5.3

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